

PRESS GUIDANCE

SUBJECT: Lebanon-Israeli Conflict

Q: What can you tell us about the continuing reports of Israeli air strikes into Lebanon and cross border artillery shellings?

A: -- We can confirm that, after ending during the night, cross border artillery exchanges and further air-strikes south of Beirut and in south Lebanon resumed in the morning. We understand three additional Israeli civilians were wounded by the shelling. We do not as yet have detailed reports on casualties in Lebanon although they are reported to be substantial.

-- We continue to be deeply and profoundly concerned over and grieved by the mounting loss of innocent lives caused by this ongoing spiral of violence and counter-violence.

-- We urgently renew our call on all parties to refrain at once from further violence. Similarly, we continue to call on all with influence on the parties to bend all their efforts to effecting a speedy end to this tragic violence.

-- In this connection, we have taken note that the Security Council last night, June 4, issued an urgent appeal to all the parties to adhere to the July, 1981 ceasefire and to refrain from anything that would aggravate the situation.

-- We strongly believe the last two days have provided additional proof that adherence to the cessation of hostilities is in the interest of all parties.

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